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CHAL-0172 ✓

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3 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : U-2 Assignments

REFERENCES : A. Memorandum for Director of Operations, same
subject, dated 20 May 1958 (Chal 0025)
B. [REDACTED] (2111)

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1. Since I addressed Reference A. to you, the U-2 assignments therein established have been modified in the light of events. Reference B. raises certain additional questions. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline briefly my views on this matter.

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2. The present inventory at [REDACTED] consists of 342, 343 and 359, all clean and all equipped with glove tanks. I understand there is no intention to change these assignments and see no need for any change.

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3. The present inventory at [REDACTED] consists of 351, 352, and 355, the first two clean and the third [REDACTED] equipped, and all three equipped with glove tanks. I believe these assignments should remain unchanged for the present. Although we will probably wish to return 355 to be the final aircraft to have the [REDACTED] covering removed, it may be desirable to run one more field test with it. Accordingly, I would like to be consulted before any plan is made to return this aircraft to the ZI.

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4. At the present 343 and 360, both in clean configuration but not fitted for glove tanks are operational at Edwards. The former can take the "C" camera and the latter is instrumented for engine tests. These aircraft should remain at Edwards for the present. Additionally, I understand from Reference B. that 367 has arrived at Edwards for reassembly after removal of the [REDACTED] covering at Burbank. 358 has just been returned from [REDACTED] and requires modifications. 378 is presumably at Burbank for removal of [REDACTED] covering. 344 is also at Burbank but I am not clear whether the honeycomb is being removed or it is being held for possible recovering.

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referring to Project **CHALICE**

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referring to Project **THERMOS**

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5. It would appear to me that we have no urgent need for additional aircraft overseas at this time. On the other hand, assuming that we proceed with [REDACTED] we might be faced with a requirement late this month for at least one additional aircraft for Detachment B to maintain an operational capability at [REDACTED]. Under these circumstances I believe that the answer to Reference B should instruct [REDACTED]

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a. To install a first-class engine in 367 so that it will be available on short notice for deployment overseas, and

b. To proceed with the modifications on 358 with an expected completion date about 21 July.

6. It may be anticipated that by the end of this month 378 will arrive at Edwards for reassembly. There will thus be three aircraft 358, 367 and 378 presumably all up-to-date on their modifications and all fitted for glove tanks, any two of which can be deployed to [REDACTED] to support [REDACTED]. The third of these aircraft could remain at Edwards with 343 and 360 as a reserve and to continue any tests required.

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7. Omitted from the foregoing is any proposed assignment for 344 now disassembled at Burbank and 349 still involved in [REDACTED]. For the present both of these should be regarded as still assigned to the [REDACTED] program unless removal of the covering has already been begun on 344. I expect to reach a decision in the course of the next ten days as to the ultimate disposition of these two aircraft. It is probable that 344 will be cleaned up and returned to the operational inventory and that 349 if the covering is in good condition may be kept with the covering intact in case any additional [REDACTED] aircraft is needed.

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8. The foregoing deals entirely with CHALICE aircraft exclusive of 348. I assume that 348 is still at Edwards on loan to us but with the current reduced tempo of testing and with so many aircraft becoming operational in the next few weeks, I believe we should be able to release 348 to FOG immediately. This will reduce our inventory to 13 and make good our original transfer of two aircraft to SAC. If, as seems likely, we reach the conclusion in the near future that we will have no use for [REDACTED] aircraft we should be able to release at least one or two additional aircraft to SAC by the latter part of the summer.

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/s/
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
SA/PD/DCI